

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 COA-02 /068 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR/BI:KLWAUCHOPE:SAG

9/14/73 EXT 22115

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR - MR. WHEELER

ARA/CAR - MR. HIGH

USCG - CMDR. PHILLIPS

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R 150018Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS:

SUBJECT: TOXIC CHEMICAL DRUMS ADRIFT IN GULF OF MEXICO

1. DEPARTMENT TRANSMITS REPORT JUST RECEIVED BY COAST GUARD CONCERNING POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION WHICH COULD ENDANGER FISHERMEN AND RESIDENTS IN NORTH AND WESTERN BAHAMAS.

2. MEXICAN AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT MEXICAN VESSEL PUEBLO COLLIDED WITH PANAMANIAN VESSEL NEAR CABO CATOCHE, YUCATAN PROVINCE, MEXICO, ON AUGUST 5. HOLE WAS TORN IN PUEBLO HULL AND ESTIMATED 380-390 DRUMS OF POTASSIUM AND SODIUM CYANIDE WERE LOST OVERBOARD BETWEEN COLLISION SITE AND VERA CRUZ, PORT TO WHICH PUEBLO WAS TOWED. COAST GUARD IS ATTEMPTING TO FORECAST DRIFT PATTERN WHICH HAS BEEN DISRUPTED BY TWO TROPICAL STORMS SINCE TIME OF COLLISION. DRUMS COULD BE ANYWHERE IN GULF OF MEXICO OR FLORIDA STRAITS. MORE ACCURATE FORECAST WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN

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AVAILABLE.

3. DRUMS ARE TWO AND ONE HALF FEET HIGH, 14-18 INCHES IN DIAMETER; PAINTED BLUE WITH WHITE STENCILED MARKINGS QUOTE DANGEROUS, CLASS 6 MATERIAL UNQUOTE. CONTENTS ARE HIGHLY TOXIC POISON CAPABLE OF KILLING ON CONTACT OR BY INHALATION OF VAPOR. DRUMS ARE MADE OF THIN METAL

AND WERE NOT TREATED FOR CORROSION; THEREFORE SALT WATER IS LIKELY TO CAUSE RAPID DETERIORATION. ANTIDOTE FOR POISON IS KELOCYANOR. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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